

6,063,982. Applicants' formal request pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.607(a) for the declaration of an interference between the present application and U.S. Patent 6,063,982 is filed herewith.

No new matter is added.

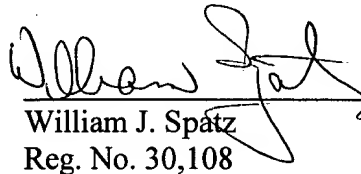
No fee is believed due. The Examiner is authorized to charge any fee due to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

Should any questions arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the attorneys for applicant at 212-715-9257 (William J. Spatz, Reg. No. 30,108) or 212-715-9472 (Louis Weinstein, Reg. No. 45,205).

Respectfully submitted,

KRAMER LEVIN NAFTALIS & FRANKEL LLP

By:

  
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William J. Spatz  
Reg. No. 30,108

August 27, 2001